

## REMARKS

The last Office Action of April 29, 2008 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-17 are pending in the application. Claims 6-9 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

It is noted that claims 6-9 are objected to because of some informalities. Applicant has amended claims 6-9, as suggested by the Examiner. Withdrawal of the objection to claims 6-9 is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al. (US 7,067,948) in view of Huth (US 6,664,690) and further in view of Sibata (US 5,220,228). It is assumed that claims 10-17 stand rejected for the same reasons as claims 6-9 and have been omitted in error. Applicant's assumption is based on the reference by the Examiner to claims 10-17 on page 4, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraphs of the Office Action. Affirmation by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully traversed.

The Yamaguchi et al. reference has a filing date which is not before the filing date of the German patent application 103 26 167.2 upon which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). In order to perfect the claim of priority, applicant submits herewith a verified translation of the priority document under 35 U.S.C. §119(a)-(d).

Accordingly, it is applicant's contention that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has now been overcome.

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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